

Application No.: 10/739,433
Amendment dated: January 19, 2006
Attorney Docket No.: 71379-014 (INTT-002)

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-41 (cancelled)

42. (new) An index generation system configured to process data and information from a linked information system configured to obtain a set of media content in relation to at least one tracked theme or topic within a field and to generate a set of links between media content as a function of a relevance to the at least one tracked theme or topic, the index system comprising:

- A. a media content module configured to obtain a selected set of media content related to a topic from the at least one theme or topic;
- B. a scoring module configured to assign scores to media content items within the selected set of media content; and
- C. an index generation module configured to generate an index for the topic as a function of the set of scores.

43. (new) The system of claim 42, further comprising

- D. a country specific index calculator adapted to integrate international information from the selected set of media content into the index, the international information including at least one of:
 - (a) information components for other countries;
 - (b) political and economic topics, including inflation, deflation, deficits, exchange rates, reforms, oil prices and supplies; and
 - (c) behavioral aspects relating to at least one of wars, reconstruction, alliances, and terrorism.

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44. (new) The system of claim 42, wherein the index generation module comprises an initial index generation module configured to capture and represent a set of behavioral aspects, including at least one of:

- (a) confidence in business, including corporate governance and behaviors;
- (b) confidence in financial markets, including economy relating to employment;
- (c) fairness and equity in management compensation, health insurance for employees, incomes, and unemployment;
- (d) uncertainty about domestic political and economic factors, about interest rates, about deficits, unemployment, and the economy in general; and
- (e) uncertainty about international political and economic factors, wars, reconstruction, alliances, free trade, and terrorism.

45. (new) The system of claim 42, wherein the selected set of media content comprises excerpts providing specific information from at least one of a clip, a report of an event, or a specifically worded statement about an event or article in combination with an invitation for a response from at least one of a user and expert.

46. (new) The system of claim 42, further comprising:

- D. a resilience test module configured to test the susceptibility to change of the assigned scores, the index, or both in response to receipt of new or updated media content items related to the topic.

47. (new) The system of claim 42, further comprising:

- D. an output module configured to present via a user interface the assigned scores in combination with media content items to which they relate.

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48. (new) The system of claim 42, further comprising:

- D. a feedback module configured to enable users, experts, or both to assign scores to the media content items, wherein an expert meets a predetermined set of criteria demonstrating an expertise on the topic.

49. (new) The system of claim 42, wherein the index includes a behavioral index comprising:

- (a) an initial sub-index generated from scores assigned to the media content items;
- (b) a user sub-index generated from user assigned scores related to the media content items; and
- (c) an expert sub-index generated from expert assigned scores related to the media content items, wherein an expert meets a predetermined set of criteria demonstrating an expertise on the topic.

50. (new) An index generation system configured to process data and information from a linked information system configured to obtain a set of media content in relation to at least one tracked theme or topic within a field and to generate a set of links between media content as a function of a relevance to the at least one tracked theme or topic, the index system comprising:

- A. a media content module configured to obtain a selected set of media content related to a topic from the at least one theme or topic;
- B. a scoring module configured to assign scores to media content items within the selected set of media content;
- C. an index generation module configured to generate an index for the topic as a function of the set of scores; and
- D. a graphic user interface module configured to present information via an output device, the graphic user interface module comprising:

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- (a) an output module configured to present via a user interface the assigned scores in combination with media content items to which they relate;
- (b) an index feedback module configured to enable users, experts, or both to assign scores to the media content items, wherein an expert meets a predetermined set of criteria demonstrating an expertise on the topic; and
- (c) a content feedback module configured to enable the users, experts, or both to provide inputs and comments related to the media content items.

51. (new) The system of claim 50, wherein the index generation modules comprises:

- (a) an initial index generator configured to generate an initial sub-index from scores assigned to the media content items;
- (b) a user index generator configured to generate a user sub-index from user assigned scores related to the media content items;
- (c) an expert index generator configured to generate an expert sub-index from expert assigned scores related to the media content items; and
- (d) an overall index generator configured to generate an overall index as a function of the initial sub-index, user sub-index and expert sub-index.

52. (new) The system of claim 50, wherein the graphic user interface module further comprises:

- (d) a framework generator configured to generate for display a framework related to the topic and derived from the selected set of media content, the framework comprising:
 - (a) a multi-dimensional framework representing a relationship between a risk spectrum and an opportunity spectrum; and

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- (b) a set of icons representing subtopics of the topic, each icon displayed within the framework as a function of a risk and an opportunity associated with the subtopic, wherein each icon is linked to a related subset of media content and selection of the icon generates a presentation of a subsequent framework and subsequent set of subtopic icons, information related to the subset of media content, or both.

53. (new) The system of claim 50, further comprising:

- E. an interface to a set of linked information system data stores comprising a plurality of information and data, including:
 - (a) a set of links between selected portions of information present in the set of media content, wherein the set of media content is available over the computer network in an electronic format;
 - (b) a markup of linked information pointing out relevance of one portion of information to another linked portion of information; and
 - (c) a set of expert commentary providing insight on business and economic topics of interest and groups of related media content, wherein the data store of links and the markup of linked information are continuously adapted to accommodate newly available media content relevant to the field of business and economics, and to accommodate new meanings of previously linked information as the new meanings develop over time.

54. (new) An index generation system configured to process data and information from a linked information system configured to obtain a set of media content in relation to at least one tracked theme or topic within a field and to generate a set of links between media content as a function of a relevance to the at least one tracked theme or topic, the index system comprising:

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- A. a topic selection mechanism configured for enabling selection of a topic from the at least one tracked theme or topic;
- B. a media content module configured to obtain a selected set of media content related to the topic;
- C. a scoring module configured to assign scores to media content items within the selected set of media content;
- D. an index generation module configured to generate an index for the topic as a function of the set of scores; and
- E. a set of feedback modules, including:
 - (a) an index feedback module configured to enable users, experts, or both to assign scores to the media content items, wherein an expert meets a predetermined set of criteria demonstrating an expertise on the topic; and
 - (b) a content feedback module configured to enable the users, experts, or both to fine-tune the topic selection, provide inputs and comments related to the media content items or set of links, or both.

55. (new) The system of claim 54, wherein the index comprises:

- (a) an initial index including a first part relating to selected media content, a second part relating to behavioral aspects, and a third part relating to an external view of countries and regions;
- (b) at least one respondent index including feedback from selected respondents relating to the initial index, including at least one of:
 - 1) a user sub-index including feedback from the users; and
 - 2) an expert sub-index including feedback from the experts;and
- (c) an overall index generated from a combination of the initial index and the at least one respondent index.

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56. (new) The system of claim 54, further comprising:

- F. a graphic user interface module configured to present graphical user interface mechanisms for enabling the feedback from the users, experts, or both.

57. (new) The system of claim 54, wherein the at least one tracked theme or topic includes a plurality of rolling topics, and the topic selection mechanism further comprises a rolling topic module adapted to hibernate and revive themes and topics from the at least one tracked theme or topic over time as a function of a change in relevance of the themes or topics within an updated set of media content embodying a change in current events.

58. (new) An index generation system configured to process data and information from a linked information system configured to obtain a set of media content in relation to at least one tracked theme or topic within a field and to generate a set of links between media content as a function of a relevance to the at least one tracked theme or topic, the index system comprising:

- A. a media content module configured to obtain a selected set of media content related to a topic from the at least one theme or topic;
- B. a scoring module configured to assign scores to media content items within the selected set of media content; and
- C. a set of index generation modules configured to generate an index for the topic as a function of scores, the index generation modules comprising:
 - (a) an initial index generator configured to generate an initial sub-index from scores assigned to the media content items;
 - (b) an respondent index generator configured to generate a respondent sub-index from feedback by respondents, including scores assigned by users, experts, or both related to the media content items; and
 - (c) an overall index generator configured to generate the index as a function of the initial sub-index and the respondent sub-index.

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59. (new) The system of claim 58, further comprising:

- D. a resilience test module configured to test the susceptibility to change of the assigned scores, the index, or both in response to receipt of new or updated media content items related to the topic.

60. (new) The system of claim 58, wherein the index represents at least one of an uncertainty, a confidence, a corporate governance, a measure of fairness and equity.

61. (new) The system of claim 58, wherein the initial index generator is configured to assign scores to at least one of selected articles, reports, or information from the media content items, and is also configured to calculate the initial index as a function of the set of scores.

62. (new) The system of claim 58, wherein the respondent index generator is configured to assign a set of scores from the respondent feedback to the initial index and media content items, and is also configured to calculate the respondent sub-index as a function of the set of scores.

63. (new) The system of claim 58, further comprising:

- D. a topic selection module configured to fine-tune the selection of the topic based on the feedback, wherein topics from the at least one tracked theme or topic may be rolled from one period to the next by editing or hibernating topics that are no longer significant.

64. (new) The system of claim 58, wherein the set of media content comprises detailed information including reports, articles and other information that is accessible to respondents to facilitate an educated response for generation of the at least one respondent index.

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65. (new) The system of claim 58, the index generation modules are configured to assign and weight scores for generation of the initial sub-index, the respondent sub-index, and the overall sub-index.

66. (new) The system of claim 58, wherein the initial sub-index comprises a first part relating to at least one of economy and business markets, a second part relating to behavioral aspects, and a third part relating to an external view of countries and regions, and a set of international aspects is incorporated into the first part, the second part, and the third part of the initial sub-index.

67. (new) The system of claim 58, comprising a linked information system providing respondents access to interrelated information, wherein the linked information system has a graphic user interface illustrating multilevel linkages interrelating the information.

68. (new) The system of claim 58, comprising a graphical user interface for generating a framework of interconnected information accessible to respondents, including both users and experts; and an interaction environment adapted to permit both users and experts to employ the framework to share information.

69. (new) The system of claim 58, comprising a feedback module configured to generate a response sheet allowing respondents to provide the feedback.

70. (new) A computer program product for generating an index from a set of media content linked as a function of a relevance to at least one tracked theme or topic within a field, the computer program product comprising a computer readable medium having computer readable program code thereon for execution by at least one processor, the computer program code comprising:

- A. a program code configured for obtaining a selected set of media content related to a topic from the at least one theme or topic;
- B. a program code configured for assigning scores to media content items within the selected set of media content; and

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- C. a program code configured for generating an index for the topic as a function of the set of scores.

71. (new) The computer program product of claim 70, further comprising:

- D. a program code configured for presenting via a user interface the assigned scores in combination with media content items to which they relate.

72. (new) The computer program product of claim 70, wherein the program code for generating the index comprises:

- (a) a program code configured to generate an initial sub-index from scores assigned to the media content items;
- (b) a program code configured to generate a respondent sub-index from feedback by respondents, including scores assigned by users, experts, or both related to the media content items; and
- (c) a program code configured to generate the index as a function of the initial sub-index and the respondent sub-index.

73. (new) The computer program product of claim 72, further comprising:

- D. a program code configured for organizing the feedback in association with a respondent classification chosen from a set of respondent classifications and a display program code configured to present an overall interpretation to the set of respondent classifications.

74. (new) A method of linking and tagging media content from a set of media content, at least one or more steps of the method configured to be carried out by a computer system having access to a network of media content sources, the method comprising:

- A. from the media content sources, obtaining a set of media content related to a field;
- B. generating a set of links between media content items from the set of media content, including:

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- 1) establishing a set of first level links between the media content items as a function of a relevance to at least one tracked theme or topic within the field; and
 - 2) creating a set of second level links as a function of a set of internal dynamics of the media content items, such internal dynamics representing threads of meaning existing within the media content items over time; and
- C. tagging links from the first set of level links and second set of level links, wherein a tag associated with a link enables recall of media content associated with the link using the tag.

75. (new) A method for generating an index representing a sentiment, the method comprising:

- A. selecting at least one tracked theme or topic relating to a field;
- B. obtaining a set of media content relevant to the at least one tracked theme or topic;
- C. generating an organizational presentation from the set of media content, wherein the organizational presentation includes a categorization of information from the set of media content and an assignment of scores to the information from an index scoring set of rules;
- D. obtaining feedback from a set of respondents from the organizational presentation and indicative of a sentiment relating to the at least one tracked theme or topic and updating the assign scores according to the sentiment ; and
- E. generating at least one index from the set of media content, the assigned scores, and the feedback.

76. (new) The method of claim 75, further comprising:

- F. developing commentary relating to the information, wherein the commentary has a categorization in support of the index point system; and

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- G. presenting the commentary to the respondents in accordance with the categorization.
77. (new) The method of claim 75, further comprising:
- F. developing overall commentary based on the results, wherein the overall commentary relates to the field of the business, economy and markets; and
 - G. presenting the overall commentary to the respondents.
78. (new) The method of claim 75, further comprising:
- F. presenting the index to the respondents via a user interface.
79. (new) The method of claim 75, further comprising:
- F. fine tuning the selection of the at least one tracked theme or topic based on the feedback.
80. (new) The method of claim 75, further comprising reselecting the at least one tracked theme or topic over time in view of changes in a situation relating to the field, thereby ensuring that the selected topics are critical at a particular time in determining sentiment relating to the field.
81. (new) The method of claim 75, further comprising gathering new information relating to the at least one tracked theme or topic and discarding old information over time.
82. (new) The method of claim 75, further comprising generating an initial index configured to capture and represent a set of behavioral aspects of the set of media content, including at least one of:
- (a) confidence in business, including corporate governance and behaviors;
 - (b) confidence in financial markets, including economy relating to employment;
 - (c) fairness and equity in management compensation, health insurance for employees, incomes, and unemployment;

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- (d) uncertainty about domestic political and economic factors, about interest rates, about deficits, unemployment, and the economy in general; and
- (e) uncertainty about international political and economic factors, wars, reconstruction, alliances, free trade, and terrorism.